

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 20197

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ECIN, IT  
SUBJECT: NOTES ON PROSPECTIVE EC COMMISSIONER ANTONIO GIOLITTI

REF: (A) ROME 16944 (B) ROME 19103

1. THE APPOINTMENT OF ANTONIO GIOLITTI AS ONE OF THE ITALIAN EC COMMISSIONERS IS BEING VIEWED AS A DOUBLE VICTORY FOR ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI) LEADER BETTINO CRAXI. IN ADDITION TO PLACING IN BRUSSELS ONE OF THE PSI'S MOST QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED ECONOMIC EXPERTS, CRAXI WILL HAVE SUCCEEDED IN REMOVING FROM THE ITALIAN SCENE ONE OF HIS CHIEF POTENTIAL RIVALS FOR THE PARTY LEADERSHIP. GIOLITTI WAS THE CANDIDATE OF THE PSI'S LEFT TO SUCCEED FORMER SECRETARY FRANCESCO DE MARTINO, AND HIMSELF ABSTAINED IN THE BALLOTING WHICH ELECTED CRAXI.

2. SINCE HIS DEFEAT BY CRAXI, GIOLITTI HAS KEPT A LOW PUBLIC PROFILE. HIS POSITION AS THE PSI'S TOP ECONOMIC SPOKESMAN HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY CLAUDIO SIGNORILE, ANOTHER LEFTIST, BUT ONE WHO SUPPORTED CRAXI. GIOLITTI CONTINUES TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PSI DIRECTORATE AND OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. CONSIDERING HIS 61 YEARS, GIOLITTI'S MOVE TO BRUSSELS IS MOST LIKELY HIS DEFINITIVE DEPARTURE FROM THE INTERNAL ITALIAN POLITICAL STAGE.

3. BORN ON FEBRUARY 12, 1915, GIOLITTI IS THE GRAND-  
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SON OF THE FAMOUS PRE-FASCIST ITALIAN PREMIER,

GIOVANNI GIOLITTI. HE WAS TRAINED AS A LAWYER, AND BEGAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN 1940, WHEN HE ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (CPI). HE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE RESISTANCE, AND IN 1946 WAS ELECTED TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AS A COMMUNIST. HE SERVED IN THE PCI GROUP IN SUCCESSIVE LEGISLATURES. HIS BREAK WITH THE PCI CAME IN 1956 FOLLOWING THE HUNGARIAN REVOLT. EVEN BEFORE HIS EXIT FROM THE PCI, HE HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN POLEMICS WITH THE PARTY LEADERSHIP BECAUSE OF THE REVISIONIST POSITIONS HE EXPRESSED IN A PAMPHLET CALLED "REFORM AND REVOLUTION."

4. AFTER HIS DEFECTION FROM THE PCI, GIOLITTI CONTINUED IN PARLIAMENT AS A SOCIALIST, AND QUICKLY BECAME ONE OF THE PSI'S LEADING ECONOMIC EXPERTS. HIS POLITICAL RECORD INDICATES THAT HE HAS LITTLE TASTE FOR POLITICAL MANEUVERING, AND HE HAS MOVED FROM FACTIO TO FACTION, STARTING OFF WITH THE LEFT-WING LOMBARDI, SWITCHING HIS ALLEGIANCE TO DE MARTINO AND, BRIEFLY, FORMING HIS OWN GROUP IN THE PARTY. HE NEVER BECAME A MEMBER OF THE PSI'S INNERMOST CIRCLE.

5. GIOLITTI HAS SERVED IN MANY LEADERSHIP ROLES WITHIN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND LEGISLATURE, BEGINNING AS UNDERSECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THE SECOND POSTWAR DE GASPERI GOVERNMENT. HIS MOST IMPORTANT ROLE, HOWEVER, WAS AS MINISTER FOR THE BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING. HE SERVED IN THAT JOB FROM 1963-64, 1970-72 AND JULY 1973--NOVEMBER 1974. IN THE 1970-72 PERIOD, BUDGET MINISTER GIOLITTI, TREASURY MINISTER UGO LA MALFA AND FINANCE MINISTER EMILIO COLOMBO WERE OFTEN REFERRED TO AS ITALY'S ECONOMIC AND EUROPEAN-MINDED "TROIKA" FOR THEIR JOINT EFFORTS TO EASE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. AT THE JUNE 1971 OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING, GIOLITTI CALLED FOR CONTROLS ON THE EURODOLLAR MARKET. IN MAY 1974, GIOLITTI CHAIRED THE OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE OECD COUNCIL. HE ADDRESSED THE UN SPECIAL SESSION IN NEW YORK IN APRIL

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1974 (HE HAS VISITED THE US SEVERAL TIMES), AND CALLED FOR INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OVER THE UTILIZATION AND ALLOCATION OF BOTH RAW MATERIALS AND FINANCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES. GIOLITTI HAS ALSO ADVOCATED CENTRAL ECONOMIC PLANNING BY A STRONG EXECUTIVE AND NATIONALIZATION OF BASIC INDUSTRIES.

6. GIOLITTI HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH EMBOFFS FOR

MANY YEARS, AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN COURTEOUS AND FRIENDLY IN PRIVATE. PUBLICLY, HE HAS ON OCCASION CRITICIZED US ACTIONS, MOST NOTABLY WITH REGARD TO VIETNAM AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. HE CONTRIBUTED A SMALL AMOUNT OF MONEY TO A PCI DRIVE FOR A FIELD HOSPITAL IN NORTH VIETNAM. A CONVINCED EUROPEAN, GIOLITTI HAS SAID THAT THE NATO ALLIANCE SHOULD BE MODIFIED TO TAKE INCREASING EUROPEAN INDEPENDENCE INTO ACCOUNT. IN THE PAST, EMBOFFS HAVE COMMENTED THAT, DESPITE GIOLITTI'S REPUTATION AS AN ECONOMIC EXPERT, HE SHARED THE COMMON ITALIAN SOCIALIST FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND FULLY THE AMERICAN ECONOMY. DURING HIS MOST RECENT VISIT TO THE US AS A GUEST OF THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS (MAY 1976), GIOLITTI HAD MEETINGS WITH HIGH-LEVEL DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND WITH THE ACADEMIC AND BUSINESS COMMUNITIES IN BOSTON AND NEW YORK. HIS VISIT RECEIVED WIDE PUBLICITY, AND HE DID NOTHING TO DISPEL THE IDEA THAT HE TRAVELED AS SOME SORT OF OFFICIAL PSI EMISSARY (HE DID NOT). GIOLITTI SAID THAT HE FOUND DIVERGENT VIEWS IN THE US ON THE PCI, BUT WIDESPREAD SYMPATHY FOR THE PSI. THE TRIP DID NOT CHANGE HIS IDEA THAT THE PCI IS SINCERE IN ITS ACCEPTANCE OF WESTERN PLURALISM, AND HE CONTRINES TO ASSERT THAT IT IS IN THE PCI'S INTEREST TO KEEP ITALY IN NATO. HE FEELS THAT IN A UNITED EUROPE THE SPECTER OF "EUROCOMMUNISM" WOULD FADE AWAY.

7. GIOLITTI IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER ELENA D'AMICO AND HAS CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN. HE WAS BORN IN ROME, BUT CONSIDERS PIEDMONT HOME. HIS LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT IS CUNEO. A CULTURED GENTLEMAN, GIOLITTI SPEAKS ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND REPORTEDLY, GERMAN. BEAUDRY  
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